Disturbance in train services in Assam

3385. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the schedule of trains between Assam (Lumding, Silchar) and Tripura (Agartala has been getting greatly disturbed almost regularly during the last few months;

(b) whether the standard of passenger amenities in these metre-gauge trains has gone down and is not at all maintained;

(c) whether the shortage of staff is the main reason for all this mismanagement; and

(d) the steps Government has taken or is going to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir. The punctuality of trains is getting affected due to on-going gauge conversion works which are permitted only during day light hours.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The efforts are on for early completion of the works and also Tripura State Government has been requested to permit Railways to undertake round the clock train operations to improve the running.

Rail link between Chennai Egmore and Chennai Central railway stations

3386. SHRI S. ANBALAGAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed project linking Central and Egmore stations at Chennai is likely to be taken up for implementation;

(b) if so, the details and the time schedule thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) The BG (Broad Gauge) link project between Chennai Egmore and Chennai Central has been sanctioned. However, Government of Tamil Nadu has not conveyed its clearance for the B.G. connectivity between Chennai Central and Egmore as it would clash with the alignment under the two major projects *viz.* Chennai Metro Rail project and the project of National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) to construct Elevated Expressway connecting Chennai port and Maduravoyal. Further, the proposed rail link cannot be constructed without the flyover on EVR Periyar High Road for which Tamil Nadu Government has not given clearance.

Gauge conversion work of Morbi-Vankaner in Gujarat

3387. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the gauge conversion work of Morbi-Vankaner in Gujarat completed;

(b) the number of metre gauge trains that were available for the people of Morbi prior to gauge conversion; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the passengers from Morbi town are facing great difficulties due to non-availability of direct broad gauge train services from Morbi?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The gauge conversion of Morbi-Wankaner section was completed on 25.07.2001.

(b) and (c) Prior to gauge conversion of Morbi and Wankaner, four pairs of Rail Bus services were running on the section. At present, six pairs of Diesel Multiple Unit services are running in the section, which is considered sufficient for the present level of traffic.

Gauge conversion work between Patan-Mehsana

3388. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) when was the gauge conversion work between Patan-Mehsana in North Gujarat completed;

(b) the number of metre gauge trains running between Patan-Ahmedabad prior to gauge conversion; and

(c) the situation at present regarding trains services between Patan-Mehsana and Patan-Ahmedabad in Gujarat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) The gauge conversion of Patan- Mehasana section was completed and commissioned on 14.02.2009.

(b) Prior to gauge conversion of Ahemedabad- Mehasana- Patan metre gauge section, 6 pairs of trains were running on the section.

(c) At present, 5 pairs of trains are running on newly converted section of Mehasana-Patan and one pair is running between Patan- Ahmedabad.

Dedicated freight corridor

3389. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether to create capacity and improve quality of freight service, dedicated freight corridor projects are under implementation by Railways;

(b) if so, the targets set and achievements made, so far; and

(c) in what manner the slippages are being addressed by Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir. Dedicated Freight Corridor Project comprising the Eastern Corridor (Ludhiana-Dankuni) and the